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Message Text

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64
ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-20 AID-20 DRC-01

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R 172039Z JAN 74
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
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E.O. 11652 N/A
SUBJECT: JUNTA INAUGURATES ARMED FORCES RADIO STATION

1. RADIO NACIONAL, OFFICIAL RADIO STATION OF ARMED FORCES AND THE NEW "VOICE OF CHILE", WAS FORMALLY INAUGURATED JANUARY 15. IN A TOUGH, RECORDED, ANTI-COMMUNIST STATEMENT, JUNTA PRESIDENT PINOCHET REFERRED TO FOREIGN PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGNS WHICH ALLEGEDLY DISTORT CHILEAN REALITY AND EMPHASIZED PURPOSE OF NEW ARMED FORCES STATION WOULD BE "TO LET WORLD KNOW OF HEROIC CHILEAN STRUGGLE TO SAVE COUNTRY FROM THE TOTALITARIAN CLAWS OF SOVIET IMPERIALIS." NEW STATION, 114 ON RADIO DIAL, WILL TRANSMIT NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY WITH 70 KILOWATTS.

2. PLANS CALL FOR SHORT WAVE TRANSMITTIONS IN SEVEN FOREIGN LANGUAGES: GERMAN, FRENCH, ENGLISH, ARABIC, RUSSIAN, ITALIAN AND PORTUGUESE. SHORT WAVE WILL BE BROADCAST APPROXIMATELY TEN HOURS DAILY DURING EVENING AND EARLY MORNING HOURS. STATION WILL BE ON MEDIUM WAVE ROUND THE CLOCK AND PLANS TO BEGIN FM BROAD-CASTING 18 HOURS DAILY BY END OF JANUARY.

COMMENT:
3. STATION OCCUPIES STUDIOS OF FORMER SOCIALIST RADIO CORPORACION
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ACROSS STREET FROM DEFENSE MINISTRY. MUCH OF 70 KILOWATT POWER COMES

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FROM NEW EQUIPMENT SUPPLIED BY SOVIETS TO FORMER COMMUNIST OWNED
RADIO RECABARREN AND RADIO MAGALLANES. MOST WAS SEIZED BY
MILITARY IN EARLY HOURS SEPT. 11.

4. ALTHOUGH MUCH PROGRAMMING FOR NEW STATION WILL COME FROM FOREIGN
MINISTRY'S CULTURAL AND INFORMATION OFFICE, RADIO SEEMS FIRMLY
IN HANDS OF JUNTA ITSELF.

5. PRESIDENT OF STATION'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS IS COLONEL EDUARDO
SEPULVEDA, JUNTA'S PRIME COMMUNICATIONS MAN. BOTH STATION
MANAGER GABOR TOREY AND PRESS CHIEF FRANCISCO BARAONA HIRED
DIRECTLY FROM RADIO MINERIA BY SECRETARY GENERAL OF GOVERNMENT.
TOREY QUOTED IN PRESS SAYING AMONG FUNCTIONS OF STATION WILL
BE "MAKING KNOWN NOBLE INTERESTS WHICH INSPIRE CHILEAN
SOLDIERS, WHO OPERATE THIS COMPANY."

6. ALTHOUGH PLANS FOR RADIO NACIONAL GRANDIOSE, KNOWLEDGEABLE RADIO
CONTACTS DOUBT EFFICACY OF INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING EFFORT
POINTING TO HIGH COSTS, LIMITED LISTENING AUDIENCE AND PAST
FAILURES TO MOUNT SHORT WAVE EFFORTS FROM CHILE. JUNTA SEEMS
DETERMINED, HOWEVER, TO FIGHT CRITICS ABROAD AND ATTEMPT
TO CORRECT WHAT THEY SEE AS A DISTORTED IMAGE OF CHILE PEDDLED
BY FORMER ALLENDE SUPPORTERS AND FELLOW-TRAVELERS. THIS IS
A MAJOR PROPAGANDA EFFORT BY GOC.
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